

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN REMEMBRANCE OF HONORABLE  
BLANCHE KRUPANSKY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Judge Blanche Krupansky, a pioneer for women in the judicial system, and to honor a life spent in service to her country and her community.

Judge Krupansky, a lifelong resident of the Cleveland area, has a multifaceted and rich history of public service. Her story serves as an inspiration for women everywhere and she paved the way for women to succeed in becoming lawyers and judges.

Honorable Krupansky was born in Cleveland, Ohio, where she attended West High School and Flora Stone College of Western Reserve University. A testament to her pioneering spirit, when she began law school at Case Western Reserve University in 1946, she was the only woman in her class.

After earning her law degree, she remained in Ohio where she served as assistant attorney general as well as an assistant chief counsel for the Ohio Bureau of Worker's Compensation. In 1961, Judge Krupansky was elected to the Cleveland Municipal Court. She later moved to the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in 1969, where she would serve for almost 10 years.

Honorable Krupansky made history twice during her long career of public service as a judge in Ohio. She became the first woman to serve on the 8th Ohio District Court of Appeals in 1977, where she would serve for over 30 years.

In 1981, she became the second woman appointed to serve on the Ohio Supreme Court in its long 185-year history. Throughout her career, she encouraged women to pursue careers as lawyers and judges, as well as to run for political office. In 1994, she told a reporter at the Cleveland Plain Dealer, "If I can do it, you can do it," in the hopes that she could inspire young women.

In 1980, she was recognized for her groundbreaking career when she was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame. She also received the Women of Achievement award from the Women's City Club of Cleveland, the Distinguished Service Award from Woman Space, the Nettie Cronise Lutes Award for an Outstanding Woman Lawyer, the distinguished Alumna Award from Case Western Reserve University, and she once served as chair of the Society of Benchers of Case.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Judge Blanche Krupansky, whose career in public service is a shining example for women everywhere. May her pioneering character and exemplary life serve as an example for all of us to follow.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2008*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it's voting season. Presidential primaries are being held all across the country, giving U.S. citizens the opportunity to vote, a right guaranteed by the 15th Amendment of the Constitution. This year, record numbers of citizens of all ages are turning out in droves, standing in lines to exercise that right, they are even participating in caucuses. As wonderful as it is to see more people participating in the election process, turnout is still not as high as it should be.

We live in the greatest country in the world, and enjoy more rights than any other country in the world. When you take into consideration that many in this country struggled, fought, and even died for the right to vote, every able bodied American should proudly vote whenever there is an election. We must never become so complacent, busy, or apathetic that we take for granted this most important right.

I was privileged to travel to Iraq, on January 30, 2005, to observe its first historic election. Having been in Baghdad and Fallujah and other parts of northern Iraq, I went to polling places, and when dawn came, the whole country was shut down to vehicular traffic. Slowly, surely and defiantly, the Iraqi people, young and old, men and women walked to the polls, taking their families, relatives, and neighbors. They voted for the very first time and attained the opportunity to make a free choice. The atmosphere of democracy unfolding was almost carnival in nature, a celebration of their new rights.

In spite of intimidation, threats, and actual violence, the Iraqi people boldly spoke out against the past oppression of Saddam Hussein and his dynasty of tyrants and spoke loudly for democracy.

Almost 300 individuals were wounded because they decided to vote for their own rulers, and they wanted to vote for freedom. Many died on election day going to or from the polls, yet 60 percent of these proud Iraqis walked to 30,000 polling stations. They took a great risk, but even after they voted, they stayed around the polling places to watch history unfold. When they left the polling booths, they walked down the street with their ink-stained right forefinger, signifying that they voted, held high in the air, defiant to terrorists, who swore they would murder those who voted or attempted to vote. The Iraqi people took the risk because freedom was more important to them, they were proud to be voters in the first free and fair election, the hope of democracy.

Freedom is not free. It always comes at a cost. Freedom fighters and civil rights activists throughout countless generations in this country paid a tremendous price to deliver equality and freedom for their brothers and sisters and the posterity of others. Thankfully, no one in

this country risks being shot, or murdered for voting, so there is no excuse for able bodied Americans to stay home and remain silent. We should be proud to be part of free elections guaranteed by democracy.

A vote is a voice. It ensures that our democracy is of the people, by the people and for the people. Celebrate our hard-earned rights, remember those who fought, struggled, and lost their lives so that we could reap the benefits. Show our gratitude to those who made your freedom and rights possible by showing up at the polls, and proving that their sacrifices were not in vain. In this great country, each time there is an election, voter turn out should be so high that everything is forced to shut down because everyone is at the polls. Americans should show the world that this is what democracy is all about, and let those who yearn for democracy know that it is definitely worth fighting for!

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN MATEO  
COUNTY BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2008*

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council and its contributions to San Mateo County with my friend Congresswoman JACKIE SPEIER.

On April 10, 1908, the San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council received its first charter from the California State Building Trades Council. Today it is comprised of 24 local construction unions and has a membership of over 16,000 of the highest skilled crafts women and men in the construction industry. They are plumbers, pipefitters, electricians, carpenters, roofers, ironworkers, cement masons, elevator constructors, heavy equipment operators (Operating Engineers), painters, truck drivers (Teamsters), lathers, sheet metal workers, plasterers, brick and tile layers, boilermakers, pile drivers, glaziers, carpet and soft tile layers, fire sprinklerfitters, insulation and asbestos workers, laborers, hod carriers, sign painters, millwright workers, laborers, cabinetmakers, steamfitters, and hardwood floor layers. While their jobs may be different, what links them together is their dedication to perform with high skill and great pride.

In 1908, San Mateo County was young and growing, and through the hard work of another generation, the county was shaped into what it is today. The single biggest accomplishment was the construction of San Francisco International Airport and more recently, a new terminal at the airport.

The mission of the San Mateo County Building & Construction Trades Council has always

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